

IRP Newsletter



DC Department of Motor Vehicles



International Registration Plan (IRP)



IRP HISTORY (In a Nutshell)

A subcommittee of motor vehicle administrators came together in 1960 to address a number of problems affecting heavy use vehicles. Participants at those meetings advocated public safety and the intelligent and efficient use of roadways by commercial vehicles and their drivers, just as we do today. Motor vehicle administrators and industry representatives partnered to discuss criteria for operation of apportioned vehicles across state lines. They set goals affecting the use of heavy vehicles in the mainland United States and ten Canadian provinces. Separate meetings were conducted to address commercial driver's licensing issues.

A primary objective of the motor vehicle administrators meetings in the 1960's was to establish guidelines for addressing vehicle registration issues and to provide a mechanism for revenue sharing based upon the use of common roadways. The International Registration Plan (IRP) provides for the distribution of vehicle registration fees to all states into which a carrier travels. Your registration fees help support highway maintenance and allow states to address other public safety issues.

The District of Columbia adopted the International Registration Plan (IRP) in September 1996, but did not enforce these regulations until after October 1998.

IRP VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES

The District of Columbia has been an active participant in the International Registration Plan (IRP) since 1998, and the registration fee that it assessed for heavy use vehicle registration seventeen years ago is the same amount that the DMV assessed in 2004. The cost for apportioned vehicle registration was \$479 in 1998 and it was \$479 in 2004. The District of Columbia will seek to bring its apportioned registration fees into parity with the States of Maryland, Virginia and surrounding jurisdictions.

Believe it or not, the DMV has not increased commercial vehicle registration fees for at least 30 years! Be aware, however, that a new commercial vehicle registration fee schedule has been approved by District government executive and legislative bodies, and that these changes are effective early March, 2005. Fee changes will not be imposed until the expiration of a 30 day legislative review by Congress. After this period, the DMV is authorized to increase commercial vehicle registration fees as shown on Page 4 of this Newsletter.



INTERNATIONAL FUEL TAX AGREEMENT (IFTA) DECALS

The District of Columbia does not at this time issue an IFTA decal for IRP vehicles. Though District representatives have made some referrals to Maryland and Virginia, a few registrants have been cited in other jurisdictions because of their failure to display a fuel tax sticker on their vehicles. IRP drivers traveling out of the District without an IFTA sticker may face a heavy fine.

The District is working with national traffic safety offices to meet IFTA qualifications so that it can issue IFTA stickers. In the meantime, please follow directives provided by our IRP office: Register and secure an IFTA sticker in Maryland or Virginia.

Maryland requests applicants to contact them at their toll-free number as follows: Office of the Comptroller, Motor Fuel Tax Division, Licensing and Registration, 1-800-784-0142. For general information call (410) 260-7131.

Their web address is
MFT@Comp.State.MD.US .

To obtain the fuel sticker from the State of Virginia, carriers can contact VDOT representatives at these locations:

- Department of Motor Vehicles
Arlington Branch Office
4150 South Four Mile Drive
Toll-free: 1-866-368-5463
- Department of Motor Vehicles
Franconia Branch Office
6306 Grovedale Drive
Alexandria, Virginia 22310-2551
Toll-free: **1-866-368-5463**.

OVERSIZED OR OVERWEIGHT VEHICLES

If you want to bring an oversized or over-height vehicle into the District, you will need a permit if:

- Your tractor trailer is wider than 8'6"
- Your vehicle is more than 40 feet. It may exceed 40 feet and still require a permit if it is a vehicle with a combined length exceeding 55 feet; if it is a semi with tractor trailer longer than 48 feet. Combination vehicles are allowed, but contact DDOT's Public Space Permit Office at 941 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 2300, Washington, DC 20002 for details.
- Your vehicle is a bus longer than 60 feet and wider than 8'6"
- Your vehicle is higher than 13'6" (including the load). **Note:** All loads must be covered or secured in such a way as to prevent shifting, dropping or leaking.

The Overweight and Oversized Permit Office is located at 941 North Capitol Street, Suite 2300, Washington, DC, 20002. The calling numbers are (202) 442-4670 or (202) 442-9467. The fax number is (202) 442-4867.

If you're filing a permit application in person, please take the following to the Permit Office to expedite your visit:

1. **Your vehicle registration certificate,**
2. **Proof of current insurance for your vehicle,**
3. **A certification attesting that the vehicle you propose to bring into the District conforms to the safety standards of the jurisdiction where it is registered.**

How much do oversized and overweight vehicle permits cost?

- Single Haul – One way: \$19.00 Round trip: \$36.00
- Tractor Trailer: \$81.00 per year
- Truck Crane: \$85.00 per year
- Up to 65,000 pounds: \$917 per year

OVERSIZED AND OVERWEIGHT VEHICLES

(Continued)

The Permit Issuance Office asks that applicants allow two weeks for processing an annual permit. For single haul permits, allow a week. A route will need to be established based upon the size and weight of your vehicle. Once the application is completed, an applicant will be issued a paper permit that must be kept in the vehicle at all times. The applicant will also receive a "tag" which is to be affixed to one's vehicle. For more information on Public Space Permits, please visit the DDOT website at <http://www.ddot.dc.gov>

CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN FOR IRP PARTICIPANTS

As a businessperson, you can understand the importance of maintaining a "to do" calendar to protect your interests. We recommend that you start the New Year right by establishing a checklist of important activities to assure all your documents are in order.

- Is your driver's license, and the driver's licenses of all persons whom you authorize to operate your vehicles current?
- Is your vehicle registration current?
- Is your DC vehicle inspection certificate current?
- Is your vehicle insurance current, and is it sufficient to protect you against excessive property damage and loss of revenue?
- Is your driver's record clear? If not, are there steps you can take to clear this record?
- Are you maintaining your vehicle operation records so that they comply with IRP requirements?

Please check with your IRP representatives if you need to discuss any of these issues.

IRP TRIP PERMITS

The District of Columbia will join other jurisdictions in providing short-term trip permits for non-apportioned vehicles. Carriers that have not reported the District as a regular travel route will be able to purchase permit authorizations through an established vendor when en-route to the city. The DMV will provide formal notice of this change mid-year 2005.



PARKING APPORTIONED VEHICLES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

It is a violation of District of Columbia law to park a commercial vehicle in a residential neighborhood. This does not apply to commercial vehicles that are actively engaged in the loading or unloading of equipment or materials. The fine frequently occurs when a vehicle is parked for an extended period of time with no apparent commercial activity. The fine for this infraction is \$250.

New Fee Schedule for Commercial Vehicles

Below is an excerpt from DC legislation regarding new commercial vehicle fees:

“(2) Class B. For each commercial vehicle, tractor, and passenger carrying vehicle for hire, including vehicles licensed under D.C. Official Code § 47-2829, based upon the manufacturer’s shipping weight, as follows:

<u>Weight Class</u>	<u>Registration Fee</u>
Class I (3,499 pounds or less).....	\$125
Class II (3,500 - 4,999 pounds).....	\$160
Class III (5,000 - 6,999 pounds).....	\$220
Class IV (7,000 - 9,999 pounds).....	\$300
Class V (10,000 or greater).....	\$575 plus \$25 per each additional 1,000 pounds over 10,000 pounds.”

“(3) Class C. For each trailer, based upon the manufacturer’s shipping weight, as follows:

<u>Weight Class</u>	<u>Registration Fee</u>
Class I (1,499 pounds or less).....	\$ 50
Class II (1,500 - 3,499 pounds).....	\$125
Class III (3,500 - 4,999 pounds).....	\$250
Class IV (5,000 - 6,999 pounds).....	\$400
Class V (7,000 - 9,999 pounds).....	\$500
Class VI (10,000 pounds or greater).....	\$500 plus \$50 per each additional 1,000 pounds over 10,000 pounds.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR IRP OFFICE

The IRP Office is small enough to address your concerns and big enough to help you resolve many of your issues.

Please contact::

Dorothy Barksdale at (202) 645-6336
Email address: dorothy.barksdale@dc.gov

or

Joan Bailey at (202) 645-6341
Email address: joan.bailey@dc.gov

For additional information visit our website at www.dc.dmv.gov or call 202-727-5000.